

## **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

### **Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kashimoto* (U.S. Patent No. 5,844,645) in view of *Yamauchi et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,745,202).

### **Summary of the Response to the Office Action**

Applicants amend claim 1 by this amendment. Claims 1-20 remain currently pending with claims 1-4 under consideration.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kashimoto* in view of *Yamauchi et al.* To the extent that this rejection may be applied to the claims, as newly amended, it is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Kashimoto* and *Yamauchi et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1, as newly-amended. For instance, it is respectfully submitted that neither *Kashimoto* nor *Yamauchi et al.* teaches or suggests the claimed combination as set forth in claim 1, as newly-amended, including at least “a pad region along a periphery of the active region and along a corresponding region of the second substrate, wherein at least one of gate and data lines extends to the pad region” and “a light-shielding layer in the pad and active regions except the sealing region on the second substrate.”

The Office Action acknowledges that *Kashimoto* does not disclose a light shielding layer in a pad region. Thus, the Office Action cites *Yamauchi et al.* as allegedly remedying the

deficiencies of *Kashimoto* in this regard. *Yamauchi et al.* discloses a light interceptive member (10, 11 or 12) surrounding IC (130 or 140). See, for example, FIG. 4 of *Yamauchi et al.*

*Yamauchi et al.*, however, does not disclose a pad region. That is, *Yamauchi et al.*'s IC (130 or 140) is formed on "an IC element side." Column 6, line 43 of *Yamauchi et al.* Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that *Yamauchi et al.* fails to teach or suggest a light-shielding layer in a pad region, as set forth in Applicants' claimed combination.

Further, even assuming that *Yamauchi et al.*'s IC (130 or 140) is in a pad region (which Applicants strongly disagree), Applicants respectfully submit that there does not exist motivation or suggestion in the prior art to combine *Kashimoto* and *Yamauchi et al.* to arrive at Applicants' claimed invention without impermissible hindsight.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that *Kashimoto* and *Yamauchi et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in claim 1, as newly-amended, including at least "a pad region along a periphery of the active region and along a corresponding region of the second substrate, wherein at least one of gate and data lines extends to the pad region" and "a light-shielding layer in the pad and active regions except the sealing region on the second substrate."

M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 instructs that "[t]o establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." Applicants respectfully submit that since *Kashimoto* and *Yamauchi et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1, *Kashimoto* in view of *Yamauchi et al.* does not render claim 1 unpatentable.

Further, at least since claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that *Kashimoto* in view of *Yamauchi et al.* also does not render claims 2-4 unpatentable. In addition, the applied references also fail to teach or suggest the features of claims 2-4. For instance, Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Kashimoto* nor *Yamauchi et al.* teaches or suggests the UV hardening sealant, as set forth in claim 2. The Office Action states that UV-type hardening material used for the sealing element is common and known in the liquid crystal display art. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the Office Action's assertion and request that evidence be provided in accordance with M.P.E.P. §2144.03. In fact, Applicants respectfully submit that thermo-hardening material and not UV hardening sealant is generally used for the sealing element in the liquid crystal display art.

In light of the above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should there remain any questions or comments regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

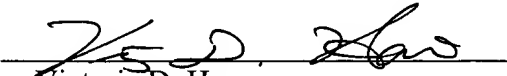
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 10, 2004

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